

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Finley et al. (U.S. 6,442,448) in view of Chandonnet (U.S. 6,401,009). Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Christman et al (U.S. 6,390,151) in view of Chandonnet, in view of Brown (U.S. 5,771,278) and further in view of Kolls (U.S. 6,643,623).

Finley, et al. discloses a fuel dispensing home phone network alliance based system. More specifically, a fuel dispensing system and a system for managing dispenser systems which may be installed with new wiring, includes a processor (or site manager) connected to the existing devices such as the point-of-sale terminal and manager workstation. The processor combines information from the remote host and existing peripherals and communicates back and forth to the dispensers while under control of the point-of-sale.

Chandonnet discloses a sundry article vending apparatus. This apparatus comprises a storage device operably configured to contain a quantity of at least one type of sundry articles, a dispensing mechanism for delivering the article from storage to a dispensing aperture. An article vending control device is operatively connected to the dispensing mechanism and a vehicle-related vending control device.

Christman, et al. discloses an automated fueling system with remote service facility to operate multiple refueling stations. This system employs a remote control system to supervise and manage the vehicle refueling operations requested by customers located at multiple distributed service station sites.

Brown discloses a method and apparatus for minimizing system oscillations caused by

acoustical coupling. The communication device may be a telephone, cellular radio or any other communication device using visible light, infrared, ultraviolet, radio or acoustic waves. In short, Brown discloses details of a modem which has a data processing and signal converting component.

Kolls discloses a method of transacting an electronic mail, an electronic commerce, and an electronic business transaction by an electronic commerce terminal using a gas pump. Various vending equipment can be networked to one another and control of functionality can be effectuated locally or by remote (wire and wireless transmission systems) connection to the network.

The instant invention as now presently claimed provides for an interface between an additive dispenser and the existing fuel dispensers that is neither shown nor suggested by any of the cited references, either alone or in combination. This interface, or intermediary module, includes a CPU module and a personality module. As a majority of all current fuel dispensers in operation in the United States use one of a limited number of proprietary protocol for interfacing the dispenser to a gas station's point-of-sale system, the intermediary module of the present invention is configurable through firmware to be customizable to any of these protocols. The intermediary module in the communications channel between dispenser and point-of-sale controller provides the opportunity for significant enhancements to a fueling transaction. Moreover, the display and control module, in cooperation with the intermediary module, further provides the opportunity for increased customer interaction before, during and after a fueling transaction. As currently claimed, such an inceptor module is lacking in Christman, et al.,

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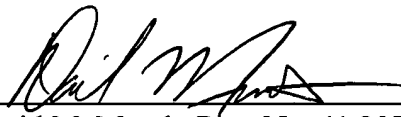
Chandonnet, Brown, or any combination thereof.

It is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,

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May 17, 2005